

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
SOUTHERN DIVISION

R2 TECHNOLOGIES LLC,

Plaintiff,

Case No.

Hon.

vs.

DEEPAK BANGALORE NAGARAJ,

Defendant.

Dennis W. Cleary (P11961)
Attorney for Plaintiff
37000 Grand River, Ste. 300
Farmington Hills, MI 48335
(248) 442-9150
denniscleary@sbcglobal.net

Raymond J. Sterling (P34456)
Brian J. Farrar (P79404)
Attorneys for Defendant
STERLING ATTORNEYS AT LAW, P.C.
33 Bloomfield Hills Pkwy., Ste. 250
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**NOTICE OF REMOVAL
BASED ON DIVERSITY OF CITIZENSHIP**

Defendant Deepak Bangalore Nagaraj, by his attorneys, Sterling Attorneys at Law, P.C., hereby gives notice of removal of this action to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, Southern Division pursuant to 28 USC 1441. In support thereof, defendant states as follows:

1. The above-captioned action was commenced and is pending in the Circuit Court for the County of Oakland as Case No. 2018-163475-CK, wherein Deepak Bandalore Nagaraj is named as defendant¹.

2. Defendant was served outside of Michigan on April 21, 2018, and accordingly, his response to the complaint is due on or before May 19, 2018.

3. According to the Paragraph 1 of the complaint, plaintiff is a Colorado limited liability company doing business in Farmington Hills, Michigan (a copy of the complaint is attached as **Exhibit A**).

4. Defendant was, at the time of filing the complaint, and is at the time of this Notice of Removal, an individual residing in and a citizen of the State of Illinois (see Paragraph 2 of the complaint).

5. The amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs.

6. This Court has original jurisdiction under 28 USC 1332(a) because this is an action between citizens of different states and the matter in controversy exceeds \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs.

7. This Notice of Removal is being filed prior to the filing of defendant's answer to the complaint and is timely under 28 USC 1446(b).

¹ Defendant's name is misspelled in the complaint. The correct spelling is Deepak Bangalore Nagaraj.

8. This case is being removed to this district and this division because the action was commenced in the Oakland County Circuit Court, which is within this district and division.

9. The undersigned will properly file a copy of this Notice with the Circuit Court for the County of Oakland as required by 28 USC 1446(d).

10. Prompt written notice of the filing of this Notice will be given to plaintiff, as required by 28 USC 1446(b) (a copy of the notice is attached as **Exhibit B**).

11. By reason of the above, defendant is entitled to remove this action to this Court under 28 USC 1441.

WHEREFORE, defendant respectfully requests that the above-entitled action be removed pursuant to 28 USC 1441 to the United States District Court of the Eastern District of Michigan, Southern Division.

Respectfully submitted,

STERLING ATTORNEYS AT LAW, P.C.

By: /s/Brian J. Farrar

Raymond J. Sterling (P34456)

Brian J. Farrar (P79404)

Attorneys for Defendant

33 Bloomfield Hills Pkwy., Ste. 250

Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

(248) 644-1500

Dated: May 8, 2018

EXHIBIT A

This case has been designated as an eFiling case. To review a copy of the Notice of Mandatory eFiling visit www.oakgov.com/clerkrod/Pages/efiling.

STATE OF MICHIGAN

OAKLAND COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

R2 TECHNOLOGIES LLC

Plaintiff

VS.

2018-163475-CK
JUDGE SHALINA KUMAR

DEEPAK BANDALORE NAGARAJ

Defendant

DENNIS W. CLEARY P11961
Attorney for Plaintiff
37000 Grand River Ste. 300
Farmington Hills MI 48335
248 442-9150

COMPLAINT

THE PARTIES

1. R2 Technologies LLC (R-2) is a Colorado limited liability company doing business in Farmington Hills Michigan.
2. Deepak Bangalore Nagaraj (Nagaraj) is an individual who resides, upon information and belief, at 1410 Villiage Lake Dr. Schaumberg IL 60195.

JURISDICTION

3. Plaintiff re-alleges each fact stated in Paragraph 1-3.
4. The court has jurisdiction of this controversy as it arose in connection with an employment contract entered into between the Plaintiff and Defendant in Farmington Hills Michigan, which provides, in pertinent part, as follows:

20. LAW AND FORUM DISPUTES ...In all disputes arising hereunder, venue

shall be in the Oakland County Michigan Circuit Court, and both parties agree to submit any disputes in connection with this matter to that court, or to any District Court where the employer is located. (**Exhibit No. 1-Employment Agreement**)

5. The court has jurisdiction over the Plaintiff by virtue of the location of its principal office in Farmington Hills Michigan.
6. The court has jurisdiction over the Defendant Nagaraj pursuant to MCL 600.705 *et seq.*, and specifically by virtue of the execution of an employment contract between Nagaraj and the Plaintiff conferring jurisdiction over him on this court in connection with this matter.

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

7. Plaintiff re-alleges each fact stated in Paragraph 1-8.
8. On August 26, 2016, the Plaintiff and Nagaraj entered into an agreement for the employment of Nagaraj by the Plaintiff as a software engineer. (**Exhibit No. 1-Employment Agreement**)
9. The employment contract between the Plaintiff and Nagaraj contained the following provisions:
 7. **COVENANTS AGAINST COMPETITION** The employee acknowledges that the services he/she will render pursuant to his Agreement are of special or unusual character with unique value to the Employer, the loss of which cannot adequately be compensated by damages in a court of law. In view of the unique value to the Employer of the services provided by the Employee, and because of the confidential information to be obtained by or disclosed to the Employee, , and as a material inducement to the Employer to enter into this Agreement and to pay the Employee pursuant to its terms, the Employee covenants and agrees that, during his/her employment with the Employer and for a period of one year after he/she ceases to be employed by the Employer for any reason, he/she shall not, except as otherwise, except as otherwise authorized by this Agreement, directly or indirectly compete with the Employer, or any affiliate of the Employer, directly or indirectly solicit the Employer's client, vendors, or the clients of an affiliate, or directly or indirectly solicit for employment any of the Employer's other employees within one hundred miles of the location where the Employee last performed services in connection with this Agreement.

EXHIBIT A

For purposes of this paragraph:

- (i) The term "compete" means (1) engaging in any manner whatsoever Including, without limitation, as a proprietor, partner shareholder, director, Employee, consultant, independent contractor, investor, or otherwise, in the same or any similar business as the Employer, or any of its affiliates, if said business is located within (100) miles from the location where the services in connection with this agreement are performed by the Employer; or, (2) by performing the same or similar services for a client of the Employer at any location.

8 REASONABLENESS OF RESTRICTIONS; REMEDIES FOR BREACH OF EMPLOYEE'S COVENANTS OF NON-DISCLOSURE AND NON-COMPETITION

- (a) The Employee has carefully read and considered the provisions of Paragraphs (6) and (7), and, having done so agrees that the restrictions set forth in these paragraphs, including but not limited to the time period of restriction, are fair and reasonable, and are reasonably required for the protection of the interests of the Employer, its officers, directors, shareholders, and its other employees.
- (c) In the event of a breach, or threatened breach, of any of the covenants in Paragraphs (6) or (7), the Employer shall have the right to seek monetary damages for any past breach, and equitable relief, including specific performance, by means of an injunction against the Employee, or against the Employee's partners, agents, representatives, servants, employers, family members and/o all persons acting directly or indirectly by or with him/her , to prevent or restrain any further breach. In lieu thereof, or should the court refuse to grant equitable relief to prevent continuing breaches of the covenants in Paragraphs (6) and(7), the Employer shall be entitled to liquidated damages equal to 32% of the annual wage of the Employee, if he/she is a salaried employee, or 32% of the hourly rate multiplied by 2,00 if he/she is an hourly employee. The parties agree that these amounts are meant to reimburse the Employer for the profit it would have derived from this agreement for one year, and are not a penalty.

10. .On (Date), Nagaraj, in violation of the above referenced agreement, submitted his resignation without prior notice to the Plaintiff.

11. Subsequent to his resignation, the Plaintiff, on its own behalf and through counsel, has made numerous attempts to contact Nagaraj in order to advise him that his resignation was in violation of the agreement between the parties, and to inquire of him as to his present place of employment. In spite of these repeated requests, Nagaraj has failed and refused to respond to any way.

12. Plaintiff has since learned that the Nagaraj is now employed directly by the same client for which he performed services in connection with his Agreement with the Plaintiff.

COUNT I-BREACH OF CONTRACT

13. Plaintiff re-alleges each fact stated in Paragraph 1-12.
14. The actions of Nagaraj as described above constituted a material breach of his contract with the Plaintiff.
15. As a direct and proximate result of the material breach of the contract, the Plaintiff has suffered damages in excess of \$25,000.00
- Wherefore, the Plaintiff requests an award of damages against the Defendant in an amount in excess of \$25,000.00, in addition to costs and attorney fees reasonably sustained.

COUNT II-INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

16. Plaintiff re-alleges each fact stated in Paragraphs 1-14.
17. The actions of the Defendant in being employed by an existing client of the Plaintiff entitle the Plaintiff to injunctive relief in accordance with Paragraph (7) and other provisions of the Agreement.
- Wherefore, the Plaintiff requests the entry of a permanent injunction preventing the Employee from employment with the client of the Employer for whom the Defendant is now performing services, or from any other action in violation of the terms of the Agreement which cannot be adequately compensated by an award of damages.

I DECLARE THAT THE STATEMENTS ABOVE ARE TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY
KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION, AND BELIEF.

Dated: January 29, 2018

/s/DENNIS W. CLEARY
Attorney for Plaintiff

EXHIBIT A

EXHIBIT NO 1



R2 Technologies LLC

1st Year 2000
1st Year 2000

EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

This Employment Agreement ("Agreement") is made between **R2 TECHNOLOGIES LLC**, with offices at 24155 Drake Rd, Ste. 206 Farmington Hills MI 48335 ("Employer") and **Deepak Bangalore Nagaraj** and is effective on the date indicated below.

In consideration of their mutual promises and other valuable consideration, the parties agree as follows:

1. **EMPLOYMENT:** The Employee shall provide the following services to the Employer. Unless indicated otherwise, the Employee shall work on a full time salary basis.
2. **BEST EFFORTS OF EMPLOYEE:** The Employee agrees to perform faithfully, industrially, and in keeping with his/her abilities and experience, the duties that may be required by the terms of this Agreement to the reasonable satisfaction of the Employer. Such duties shall be performed in the places, and under the conditions dictated by the reasonable business needs of the Employer.
3. **COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEE:** The Employer shall pay, and the Employee shall receive an hourly salary of \$33.79, payable in monthly instalments on the last day of each month, plus or minus two days. Upon termination of this Agreement, payments under this paragraph shall cease, provided however, that the Employee shall be entitled for periods in which services were performed by him/her between the date of the last paycheck and the date of termination. This section of the Agreement is included only for accounting and payroll purposes and should not be construed as establishing a minimum or definite term of employment.
4. **REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES IN ACCORDANCE WITH EMPLOYER POLICY:** The Employer will reimburse the Employee for "out of pocket" expenses in accordance with company policies from time to time.
5. **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF OPERATIONS:** The Employee shall provide the Employer with all information, suggestions, and recommendations regarding the Employer's business operations of which the Employee has knowledge that may be beneficial to the Employer.
6. **NONDISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION:** The Employee acknowledges that in and as a result of his/her employment with the Employer he/she will making use of, acquiring, and/or adding to confidential information of a special or unique nature and value relating to such matters as the Employers, proprietary information, systems, procedures, programs, products, pricing, business plans manuals, confidential reports, patents, copyrights, inventions, and lists of clients (which are deemed for all purposes confidential and proprietary) as well as the nature and type of services rendered by the Employer, the equipment and methods used and preferred by the Employer's clients, and the fees paid by them. As a

EXHIBIT A

material inducement to the employee to enter into this Agreement and to pay to the Employee the compensation stated herein, the Employee covenants and agrees that he/she shall not, at any time during or following his/her term of employment, directly or indirectly divulge, disclose, or communicate in any manner and for any purpose whatsoever, any confidential information that has been obtained by or disclosed to him/her as a result of his/her employment, including and confidential information about the Employer's clients. All access tokens for any of the Employer's clients, either physical (keys, key fobs), or digital (passwords, or passphrases) are the property of the Employer and/or the client to which they grant access. Such passwords/passphrases shall be clearly and accurately conveyed to the proper Employer authority to be stored in a lockbox of the Employer and/or of the client. In the event of a breach or a threatened breach by the Employee of any of the provisions of this paragraph, the Employer, in addition and not in limitation of any of the other rights, damages, or remedies available to it in law or equity, shall be entitled to a permanent injunction in order to prevent or to restrain any such breach by the Employee, or by the Employee's agents, representatives, servants, employees, employers, family members, and/or any and all persons directly or indirectly acting for him/her.

7. COVENANTS AGAINST COMPETITION: The Employee acknowledges that the service he/she will render pursuant to this Agreement are of a special or unusual character with a unique value to the Employer, the loss of which cannot adequately be made by damages in an action at law. In view of the unique value to the Employer of the services provided by the Employee, and because of the confidential information to be obtained by or disclosed to the Employer, and as a material inducement to the Employer to enter into this Agreement and to pay the Employee pursuant to its terms, the Employee covenants and agrees that, during his/her employment with the Employer and for a period of one year after he/she ceases to be employed by the Employer for any reason, he/she shall not, except as otherwise authorized by this Agreement, directly or indirectly compete with the Employer, or any affiliate of the Employer, directly or indirectly solicit the Employer's clients, vendors, or the clients of an affiliate, or directly or indirectly solicit for employment any of the Employer's other employees within one hundred (100) miles of the location where the Employee last performed services in connection with this agreement.

For purposes of this paragraph:

- (i) The Term "compete" means: (1) engaging in any manner whatsoever, including, without limitation, as a proprietor, partner, shareholder, director, officer, employee, consultant, independent contractor, investor, or otherwise, in the same or any similar business as the Employer, or any of its affiliates, if said business is located within one hundred (100) miles from the location where the services in connection with this agreement are performed by the Employee; or (2) performing the same or similar services for a client of the Employer at any location.
- (ii) The term "clients" in the preceding paragraph means all persons, companies, government agencies, or other agencies where the Employee has performed services on behalf of the Employer.
- (iii) The term "vendor" means the entity or an individual directly or indirectly engaged in business with the Employer.

VALIDITY AND ENFORCEABILITY OF RESTRICTIONS, REMEDIES FOR BREACH OF EMPLOYEE'S COVENANTS OF NON-DISCLOSURE AND NON-COMPETITION.

- (g) The Employee hereby understands, reads and acknowledges the provisions of Paragraphs (6) and (7) and having been advised by the Employer that the restrictions set forth in these Paragraphs, including but not limited to the time period of restriction, are fair, and reasonable and are reasonably restricted for the protection of the interests of the Employer, its officers, directors, family members, and other employees.
- (h) In the event that a court finding the enforceability of any of the provisions of Paragraphs (6) and (7) shall be held to be invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions thereof shall nevertheless continue to be valid and enforceable as though the invalid or unenforceable parts had not been included therein. In the event that any provisions of Paragraphs (6) and (7) relating to the time period and/or the areas of restriction, and/or related aspects shall be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to exceed the maximum restrictions that the court deems reasonable and enforceable, the time period and/or areas of restriction and/or related aspects deemed reasonable and enforceable by the court shall become and thereafter be the maximum restriction in this regard, and the restriction shall remain enforceable to the fullest extent deemed reasonable by such court.
- (i) In the event of a breach or threatened breach of any of the covenants in Paragraphs (6) and (7), the Employer shall have the right to seek monetary damages for any past breach and equitable relief, including specific performance, by means of an injunction against the Employee or against the Employee's partners, agents, representatives, servants, employees, family members, and/or all persons acting directly or indirectly by or with him/her, to prevent or restrain any further breach. In lieu thereof, or should the court refuse to grant equitable relief to prevent continuing breaches of the covenants in Paragraphs (6) and (7), the Employer shall be entitled to liquidated damages equal to 32% of the annual wage of the Employee, if he/she is a salaried employee, or 32% of the hourly rate multiplied by 2,080 if he/she is an hourly employee. The parties agree that these amounts are meant to reimburse the Employer for the profit it would have derived from this agreement for one year, and are not a penalty.
- (d) Employee agrees to give 30 days of notice any time in case if he/she wants leaving the company during the 18 month of services and after 18 months of service with the company. Employee also agrees to compensate monetary loss / revenues loss caused due to short of this 30 days of notice period. Employee also agrees with the company to hold last month wages until all settlements are completed with the company.

9. **BENEFITS:** The employee shall be entitled to Company benefits commensurate with the Employees job title and tenure with the Company, and in accordance with the applicable insurance contracts and policies, and applicable state law. These benefits are outlined in the Employee Benefits handbook, and may be updated periodically in accordance with business needs.

10. EMPLOYEE'S INABILITY TO CONTRACT FOR EMPLOYER: The Employee shall not have the right to make any contracts or commitments for or on behalf of the Employer without first obtaining the express written consent of the Employer.

11. TERM/TERMINATION: Either the Employer or the Employee may terminate this agreement at any time by 30 days of notice. In the event that the Employee re-appears or otherwise leaves his position with the company prior to its notice period he/she shall be subject to the liquidated damages provision set out in Paragraph 8 of this agreement.

12. COMPLIANCE WITH EMPLOYER'S RULES: The Employee agrees to comply with all of the rules and regulations of the Employer, whether they are found in this agreement, in the Employee Handbook of the Employer, or in any other Company document.

13. NOTICES: All notices required or permitted under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be deemed delivered when delivered in person or deposited in the United States mail, postage paid and addressed to the Employer at the address stated on Page 1 of this agreement, or to the Employee at the address on file with the Employer. Such addresses may be changed from time to time by either party by providing written notice in the manner set forth above.

14. WORK AUTHORIZATION: This agreement and the employment offer is subject to valid employment authorization of the employee to work in the United States. When employee is a non-immigrant the offer, employment and this agreement is subjected to approval of VISA and/or non-immigrant application filed on behalf of the employee. In the event of denial of any such applications employers takes no responsibility for any direct or indirect consequences.

15. BACKGROUND CHECKS: The employment offer is contingent to completion and clearing the background check, credit check and drug test. In the event of giving false information or not bring to employer notice all now issues employee holds responsibility for any monetary losses of employer.

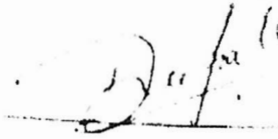
16. ENTIRE AGREEMENT: This Agreement contains the entire agreement of the parties, and there are no other promises or conditions in any other agreement whether oral or written. This Agreement supersedes any prior written or oral agreements between the parties, or by any predecessor of the Employer.

17. AMENDMENT: This Agreement may be modified or amended if the amendment is made in writing and signed by both parties.

18. SEVERABILITY: If any provisions of this Agreement shall be held to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, the remaining provisions shall be held to be valid and enforceable. If a court finds that any provision of this Agreement is invalid and unenforceable, but that by limiting such provision it would become valid and enforceable, such provision shall be deemed to be written, construed, and enforced as so limited.

19. WAIVER OF CONTRACTUAL RIGHT. The Employee hereby waives all rights to any contractual rights, including but not limited to, the right to be employed by the Employer for a fixed term of years.

20. LAW AND VENUE. All disputes arising out of or from this Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Michigan. All disputes arising out of or from this Agreement shall be resolved by the courts of the State of Michigan. All disputes arising out of or from this Agreement shall be resolved by the courts of the State of Michigan. All disputes arising out of or from this Agreement shall be resolved by the courts of the State of Michigan.



PRINTED NAME
EMPLOYEE

DEEPAK BANGALORE NAGARATH

Employer:

By: _____

Its: _____

EXHIBIT B

STATE OF MICHIGAN

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF OAKLAND

R2 TECHNOLOGIES LLC,

Plaintiff,

Case No. 2018-163475-CK

Hon. Shalina Kumar

vs.

DEEPAK BANDALORE NAGARAJ,

Defendant.

Dennis W. Cleary (P11961)
Attorney for Plaintiff
37000 Grand River, Ste. 300
Farmington Hills, MI 48335
(248) 442-9150
denniscleary@sbcglobal.net

Raymond J. Sterling (P34456)
Brian J. Farrar (P79404)
Attorneys for Defendant
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33 Bloomfield Hills Pkwy., Ste. 250
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304
(248) 644-1500
rsterling@sterlingattorneys.com
bfarrar@sterlingattorneys.com

NOTICE OF FILING OF NOTICE OF REMOVAL

To: Dennis W. Cleary (P11961)
Attorney for Plaintiff
37000 Grand River, Ste. 300
Farmington Hills, MI 48335
(248) 442-9150
denniscleary@sbcglobal.net

You are hereby notified pursuant to 28 USC 1446(d), that on May 8, 2018, defendant Deepak Bandalore Nagaraj, filed a Notice of Removal with the Clerk of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, Southern Division, thereby removing this action in the Circuit Court for the County of Oakland, Case No. 2018-163475-CK. Accompanying the Notice of Removal were copies of all process, pleading and orders filed in this action.

EXHIBIT B

PROOF OF SERVICE

I certify that on May 8, 2018, I filed the foregoing papers with the Clerk of the Court using the e-filing system which will electronically send notification to all counsel of record.

/s/Brian J. Farrar
Brian J. Farrar (P79404)
Sterling Attorneys at Law, P.C.
33 Bloomfield Hills Pkwy., Ste. 250
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304
(248) 644-1500

Respectfully submitted,

STERLING ATTORNEYS AT LAW, P.C.

By: /s/Brian J. Farrar
Raymond J. Sterling (P34456)
Brian J. Farrar (P79404)
Attorneys for Defendant
33 Bloomfield Hills Pkwy., Ste. 250
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304
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